

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended herein. All of the pending claims 1 through 16 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~distinguishing~~ assigning an animal to a group selected from:

(a) animals infected with wild-type Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV) or

(b) vaccinated with a first vaccine comprising an unmodified mesogenic or lentogenic NDV strain of NDV; ~~or~~

~~(c) not vaccinated with NDV, from an animal and~~

~~(d) (b) animals not infected with or vaccinated against NDV and animals~~ vaccinated with a second vaccine comprising an infectious copy of an avian paramyxovirus at least partly derived from NDV obtainable by a process comprising: transfecting at least one cell with an avian-paramyxovirus cDNA comprising a nucleic acid sequence corresponding to the 5'-terminal end of the genome of avian paramyxovirus to generate an infectious copy of an avian paramyxovirus, wherein said infectious copy of the avian-paramyxovirus encodes one or more viral proteins having a modification relative to wild-type or an unmodified mesogenic or lentogenic NDV strain, said method comprising:

providing a population of animals wherein one or more of the animals in said population has been vaccinated with said second vaccine;

taking at least one sample from ~~the~~ an animal in said population to be assigned ; and

analyzing said at least one sample to determine the presence of antibodies directed against an epitope or marker expressed by an animal infected with wild-type NDV or vaccinated with said first vaccine unmodified NDV, but not by an animal vaccinated with said second vaccine;

correlating the presence of antibodies directed against an epitope or marker expressed by an animal infected with wild-type NDV or vaccinated with said first vaccine, but not by an

animal vaccinated with said second vaccine, with the animal not having been immunized with said second vaccine
assigning the animal to a group.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein said antibodies directed against an epitope or marker expressed by wild-type or unmodified NDV, but not by said second vaccine are directed against an epitope on a hemagglutinin-neuraminidase or fusion protein of Newcastle Disease Virus.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the modification is in a viral nucleocapsid, phosphoprotein or large polymerase protein.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said animal is a chicken.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein said animal is a chicken.

6. (Withdrawn) A diagnostic kit for use in a method according to claim 1, said diagnostic kit comprising an antigen for reacting with said antibodies, wherein said antigen comprises an epitope or marker expressed by wild-type or unmodified Newcastle Disease Virus, but not by the vaccine.

7. (Withdrawn) The diagnostic kit of claim 6, further comprising a vaccine specific antigen for reacting with said antibodies, wherein the vaccine specific antigen comprises an epitope expressed by the vaccine, but not the wild-type or unmodified Newcastle Disease Virus.

8. (Withdrawn) The diagnostic kit of claim 6, wherein said infectious copy of an avian-paramyxovirus further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a heterologous antigen and said vaccine specific antigen comprises an epitope of said heterologous antigen.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said Newcastle Disease

Virus is a lentogenic virus.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said modification comprises a modification of a structural protein.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said modification comprises a modified protease cleavage site.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said cleavage site is a protease cleavage site of the fusion protein.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said modification comprises a modified hemagglutinin-neuraminidase protein.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said modification comprises a modified matrix protein.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said infectious copy of an avian-paramyxovirus further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a heterologous antigen.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said heterologous antigen is derived from a poultry pathogen.